

THE U.S. EMBASSY'S REPORT (FROM TOKYO)
ON THE CHANGKUFENG INCIDENT, AUGUST 4, 1938.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM Tokyo

Dated August 4, 1938
Rec'd 10:06 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

August 4, 6 p.m.

Embassy's August 2, 6 p.m., Soviet border clash.

One. The featurung by the press of reports on the Soviet border incident is running a poor second to reports on the advance towards Hankow. Systematic and effective use is being made of Domei reports from each important capital to the effect that dominant opinion at such capital does not expect the incident to develop into war. Particular interest attaches to reports that Moscow is not excited and that the Soviet press appears to be belittling the incident. At the same time Japanese army releases purporting to be simply factual accounts are currently published and they make it clear that the scale of fighting has been dangerously extensive. One release published today states that the Soviet forces in the vicinity of Changkufeng include three battalions of infantry and one mechanized brigade with more than two hundred tanks. Soviet air raids involving large numbers of planes, over points in Manchuria and Korea, continue to be affirmed.

Two. The populace shows no desire for war against the Soviet Union and appears to be calm. However, apprehension is evidenced among officials and other informed Japanese, who feel that, as it is now the Soviet's turn to move, the decision for war or peace rests with Moscow.

We learn from the Foreign Office that Litvinov is evading the Japanese Ambassador, which would seem to support press despatches from European capitals that the Soviet Government has not as yet made its decision. It was also stated at the Foreign Office that Japan will, whatever the consequences, tolerate no violation of the frontier. Nevertheless, there appears to be moderate optimism that war will not eventuate.

Three. As there is available in Tokyo no information from sources other than Japanese, we are in no position to decide whether we wish to modify our views on Soviet-Japanese relations expressed in our despatch 2822 of March 18 and in other reports.

It

It would appear, however, that the Soviet forces have, by moving into an area the ownership of which has been for some time in controversy, initiated this dangerous situation. Whether the motive was to divert Japanese forces from operation against China, as has been suggested, or some other, the Soviets have apparently precipitated a situation which may become impossible either for the Soviet Union or Japan to control.

Repeated to Peiping for Johnson.

GREY

No. 96C1

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I Certify That the document hereunto annexed is a true copy from the files of this Department.

In testimony whereof, I, GEORGE C. MARSHALL,

Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Acting Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this twenty-third

day of January, 1947.

/s/ George C. Marshall
Secretary of State.

By /s/ B. E. Cash
Acting Authentication Officer,
Department of State.

Def Doc # 549

No. 1

張鼓峯事件ニ関スル英米國文使館電(東京)報告

米電

一九三八年八月四日附

東京發

一九三八年八月四日附

午前十時六分受信

ワシントン

國務長官宛

八月四日午後六時

八月四日午後六時文使館電

ソウエト國境衝突事件

ソウエト國境事件ノ報道、殊ニ獨逸振漢口進撃ノ報道比
 ヲトモニ裁的振アツタ。主要ト音聲有ル事件ハ戦争ニ発展スル
 ト思ハレタト意見ガ専ラソウエト居ル。趣旨、此等都市カラ同盟
 電ガ組織的ニ効果的ニ使用セラレタ。モネーザ興奮シテ居ラス。
 ソウエト各紙ハ事件ヲ小サシ見ヤトシ居ルヤラアルト、報道ハ特
 國心ガ拂ハル。同時ニ日帝陸軍、公使ハ軍ニ事實發展ナルヤニ隣
 發展セラレタガ戰鬪規模ハ危險ニ拡大シ居ルエトソウエト居ル。
 今日、公使ハ張鼓峯附近、ソ軍歩兵ニ大隊機械化部隊派
 及戰車三百以上ヲ有スルト云フ。又、蘇聯機ニ滿洲及
 朝鮮各地、ソ側空襲ハ引續キ宣認セラレテ居ル。
 二國民ハ皆ソ戦争ヲ欲スルニ平聲、セウ云ル。然シ宣使其他
 情報通、日本人間ハ疑懼ガ見受タリ。彼等ハ今度ハ寧ろ
 ガチヲ打リ番デアルカラ和戰、決定ハモネーニカカリテ居ルト
 思ッテ居ル。

No. 2

Oct Dec #15-59

我々、外務省からリトヴィア、日本大使を辭して居る間、之にシテ政府、本々決定ヲミテ居リト云ふ、歐洲、首都ヨリ、新聞電報ヲ裏付け、之、ヤリ、外務省に、又日本ハ、結果ハ如何トモソ、國境侵犯ヲ許さレリト云フトモ言フテ居ル。然レシ戦争ニ至ルスト、稍々樂觀的見解ガ下テナル。
三、東京より、日本側以前、出所ヨリ、情報ガハカシ、言フ合、電報亦ハ二三号及、他、報告ニ述ベタリ、關係ニ関スル我々見解ヲ加減シタモ、カトウカラ決定スル地位ニ在リ。然レニ「ソ」に置キ、從來所屬問題トナシ居ル地域ニハ、ハ、込ニテ危險情勢ヲ起シヤクニ思ハル。其、動機ガ傳ヘラレセ、日本軍ヲ中國ニ對シテ戰ヲ戦ニサセ、ルニカスハ、其、他、ニトテアルニシテモ、ソ、耳ハ、日「ソ」イゾモガ抑ヘ切レナイヤクニナルニカモ知シナイ情勢ガ、明カニ激化シテアル。北平、シヨニスニ、一電報也。

No. 3

Ref Doc #1549

オ九一。五

米合衆国国務省

本文書ヲ閱スル各位ニ 敬意ヲ表ス

余、茲ニ添付セラレタル 文書が 貴省、綴込ヨリノ 真正ナル
事ナレトヲ 証明ス

右証據トシテ 国務長官タル 余「ニヨ一ニ、ニ一、
ニ一ニヤル」ハ、一九四七年一月二十三日「ワシントン」市 国
務省 証明官代理ヲシテ 同省、官印ヲ押捺
シ 余、姓名ヲ記入セシメタリ

国務長官 ニヨ一ニ、ニ一、ニ一ニヤル (署名)

国務省証明官代理 ジーイー、キヤクニ (署名)